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**Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests**  
**Conasauga District**  
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# Fire Update



**For Immediate Release**

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**Inciweb: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5078>.**

**#RoughRidgeFire**

## **Rough Ridge Fire Update: November 23, 2016, 10 a.m.**

**FAST FACTS:** The Rough Ridge Fire is 27,870 acres and 66% contained. 219 personnel are assigned to the fire. Resources include 7 crews, 2 helicopters, 11 engines, 5 water tenders and 2 dozers.

**Location:** Cohutta Wilderness Area on the Chattahoochee National Forest

**Current Fire Situation:** Yesterday the winds continued to produce vast amounts of leaf litter within the fire and on the containment lines. In some areas this leaf litter is landing on interior hot spots causing isolated areas of smoke production. Smoke will remain visible until a significant amount of rain falls over the burned area.

**Planned Actions:** The fire is still not fully contained and crews will continue to work hotspots that pose a threat to the fire perimeter. Crews will begin to return the containment lines as close to their original state as possible. Fire suppression repair activity will include placing water bars in dozer lines and hand lines to minimize erosion as well as scattering piles of trees and brush created by firefighting activity. Roads will also be graded and drainages cleared from debris.

**Fire Weather:** A weakening cold front will approach the region today with a chance of showers later in the day. The system appears to be weak and rainfall accumulations are expected to be less than a tenth of an inch. Mild temperatures with increasing south winds are expected throughout the day with higher humidity. Thursday will bring clearing skies with mild temperatures in the mid to upper 50s to low 60s with better relative humidity.

**A total fire ban is in place on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests.** This means that building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire (including charcoal based fire, whether contained in a grill or not) is prohibited. Commercially available fuel stoves (camp stoves) are allowed. **In addition, Fannin, Gilmer, and Murray Counties are among counties that have issued a ban on all outdoor burning until further notice.** No open burning of any type is permitted, including campfires and fire pits.

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For more updates and to learn more about Georgia's national forests, visit us on the web at [www.fs.usda.gov/conf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/conf). You can also get the latest forest news by liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter @ChattOconeeNF or downloading the forest's mobile app at <http://tinyurl.com/CONFmobileapp>.

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# Hunting Information

## Effective November 27<sup>th</sup> 2016

The November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 4<sup>th</sup> Firearms/Buck Only and Bear Hunt on the Cohutta Wildlife Management Area (WMA) within the Conasauga Ranger District **will occur, with certain restrictions**, due to the Rough Ridge Fire. The fire was detected on October 16<sup>th</sup> and has burned 27,870 acres within the Cohutta Wilderness and areas outside the wilderness in the East Cowpen/Jigger Creek and the Bee Knob area south of Jones Settlement.

The Rough Ridge Fire is still not fully contained and firefighters will continue to work in the area. The potential for the fire to reburn through previously burned area is possible. There will be emergency vehicle traffic on all Forest Service roads around the Rough Ridge Fire. Please reduce your speed on these roads and adhere to all road closures and do not block gates or park vehicles in areas where the fire has burned.

The following areas and roads **will be closed** during November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 4<sup>th</sup> for the hunt:

*See map for details*

- Cohutta Wilderness south of Jacks River
- WMA lands east of Forest Service Road 16 and east of the Conasauga River to the Cohutta Wilderness boundary
- WMA lands north of Forest Service Road 64 to Buddy Cove Gap and generally west of the Pinhoti Trail to Forest Service Road 126
- WMA lands north of Forest Service Road 126 and generally west of the Benton MacKaye Trail to the Wilderness boundary
- Forest Service Road 51 (East Cowpen/Jigger Creek)
- Forest Service Road 126 (Elliot Road/West Fork Jacks River)
- Forest Service Road 64 from Three Forks Trailhead Parking Lot to Jacks River Fields Campground is closed to motorized vehicles because of a landslide
- Forest Service Road 18 between Emery Creek Trailhead Parking Lot and Shanty Creek is closed to motorized vehicles because of a landslide
- Forest Service Road 630D (Rocky Flats) is closed to motorized vehicles because of a sinkhole

The following roads **will be open** during November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 4<sup>th</sup> for the hunt:

- Forest Service Road 64 from Watson Gap to Jacks River Fields Campground and FSR 64 from Potato Patch to Three Forks Parking Lot
- Forest Service Road 16, 17, 17B, 22, 49, 68, and 630

The following seasonally-gated roads **will be open** during November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 4<sup>th</sup> for the hunt:

- Forest Service Road 151 (Mooneyham)
- Forest Service Road 17A (Pleasant Gap)
- Forest Service Road 630C (Lackey Knob)
- Forest Service Road 304 (Barnes Creek)